

VLR-9/20/88 NRHP-6/12/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Chopawamsic RDA - Camp (3) Orenda/SP-26 Historic District

other names/site number Prince William Forest Park

Family Camp, Mothers & Tots' Camp

### 2. Location

street & number west of 1-95 between VA 619 and VA 234  not for publication

city, town Triangle  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Prince William code 153 zip code 22172

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>44</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>4</u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>49</u>	<u>8</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
ECW Architecture at Prince William Forest Park, 1933-42

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register,
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/camp/institutional housingRECREATION & CULTURE/outdoorrecreationLANDSCAPE/forest

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/campRECREATION & CULTURE/outdoorrecreationLANDSCAPE/forest**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

NPS rustic architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls wood, "waney board"roof asphaltother stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The proposed historic district is bounded by a series of natural and man-made features: starting at the lake (B), south along the drainage to the north side of Park Central Road; south then north then west to the old road leading northwest to the CCC SP-26 site; southwest to the edge of the new maintenance area; north to the stable yard; west to the edge of the stable yard; north to the power line break; north to intersect with Trail 8; east along Trail 8 and the Quantico Creek to the truss bridge. It encompasses approximately 179 acres, and contains buildings and structures that support daytime recreational activities and overnight accommodations, as well as the maintenance area that contains the remains of CCC work camp SP-26. The cabin camp is arranged with dining hall, arts, medical, administration and staff buildings flanked on one side by Unit C's six eight- to 10-person cabins; by Unit A's one- to five-person cabins; and Unit B's trio of eight-to 10-person cabins. Each unit also includes a lodge and latrine. Other camp elements include the lake to the east, picnic fireplace and entrance gate at Park Central. The wood truss bridge on Park Central over the south branch of Quantico Creek is a distinctive contributing structure. A second concentration of contributing buildings is located in the maintenance area, those occupied by CCC enrollees who--between 1935 and 1939--were employed in the construction of public recreational facilities. The remains of the camp include the former central parade ground with flagpole intact, parallel to which is the former blacksmith shop and electric shop. Northeast of the parade ground lies a former paint shop and garage; southwest of the parade ground is a storage building and (non-contributing) service building. They are physically separate from the arrangement of modern non-contributing service structures. West of this grouping is a stable with adjoining tackroom and a garage. All contributing buildings, structures, and sites in the district are related to a single theme--the culmination of a movement within the progressive era of the New Deal to build model resource-reclamation projects, and the accompanying rise of rustic architecture. Through a combination of quality craftsmanship and careful consideration of the relationship between architectural and landscape design, the district has maintained the

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spirit and character in which the area was originally conceived and built. The district includes 44 contributing buildings, four contributing structures, one contributing site; seven non-contributing buildings, and one non-contributing site.

Chopawamsic/PWFP is a product of the coordinated efforts of the NPS's Branch of Planning and State Cooperation, Region 1, Richmond. Between 1935 and 1939, ECW workers constructed the 19 cabins, six latrines, four unit lodges, four helps'/staff quarters, two storage buildings, a swimming pavilion, office/administration building, crafts shelter, dining hall, infirmary, nursery/lodge, central washhouse, camp fire circle, entrance gate, picnic fireplace and vehicular bridge over the south branch of Quantico Creek on Park Central. It was completed for operation July 1937 (map 7).<sup>1</sup>

#### CCC-occupied Facilities

Situated west of Camp (3) Orenda are the remains of buildings and structures representative of the buildings occupied by CCC Company 2383. From 1935 to 1939, SP-26 was inhabited by men engaged in the construction of public-use facilities; in 1940 this became NP-16.

The SP-26/NP-16 camp (illustration 4) was arranged in a rectangular site that featured a central, open parade ground, flanked on the south by four long barracks buildings, and on the north by the mess hall, quarters, camp road and a series of maintenance buildings. The east end of the compound was faced by the recreation hall, barracks and the garage court with the road continuing back to additional parking space and another garage; the southern flank contained the officers quarters, supply building, office, infirmary, storage/education building and camp road entrance.

The remains of the camp include the former central parade ground with flagpole intact (photo 15), parallel to which is the former blacksmith shop (1936, photos 16-17) and electric shop. Northeast of the parade ground lies a former paint shop and garage; southwest of the parade ground is the education/storage building (1935, photo 18) and a non-contributing service building. The five wooden buildings and former parade ground extant at Prince William Forest Park remain from the occupancy of SP-26/NP-16 and this cluster of structures is physically separate from later construction that comprises the parks' present maintenance area.

<sup>1</sup> W.R. Hall, "Accomplishments of CCC Camp SP-25. . ." (April 9, 1938), p. 4.

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When a CCC company was dispatched to another project, their structures were disassembled for reuse elsewhere, or used as scrap. The latter fate befell SP-22's camp [see Camp (1) Goodwill Historic District], for example, deserted in March 1939. Five barracks, an officers's quarters, administration building, foremen's quarters, garage and two latrines were given to the "custody of the Army for CCC salvage purposes."<sup>2</sup>

Two additional contributing structures--a stable with adjoining tackroom and a storage building--are located west of this CCC area; the stable represents a distinctive and picturesque rustic styling not seen elsewhere in the park.

Public Recreational Facilities

The public-use structures and camp arrangements were developed with a strong bent toward sensible and well-thought out uniformity, form and layout.

In accordance with the size of the area--most of [the RDAs] contain from a few to several thousand acres--there are planned a number of organized camps. Each camp will serve a maximum of 150 people and will be divided into units, each accommodating not more than 30 people. A typical organized camp consists of a central kitchen and dining hall, a central wash and toilet house, an administrative building, staff quarters, service buildings and water and sewage facilities. The individual units of a camp consist of tents or shelters according to climate, a unit lodge with outdoor kitchen; a unit wash house and latrine.<sup>3</sup>

Versatility also was a factor. The unit lodges and other buildings in the administration core were "designed to serve as group cabins for winter use"; and each unit camp as a whole was designed for independent operation.<sup>4</sup>

The men of SP-25 turned to this camp (photo 34), the third to be developed (aka Orenda, Mothers and Tots, Family, 3-F), after completing Dam 5 at Camp (2) Mawavi/(5) Happyland. Their first undertaking in 1938 is one of the most distinctive buildings in the park. "Here the boys built a nursery building to accommodate 40 babies, with modern kitchen, bath, sleeping porch and assembly room." And it was a costly \$4,169 building.

<sup>2</sup> Letter to Robert Fechner from H.E. Weatherwax, June 27, 1939.

<sup>3</sup> Ickes et al, p. 3-4.

<sup>4</sup> 1937 Yearbook, p. 39.

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The T-plan is enhanced by a low-pitched hip and gable roof, wrapped porch and continuous fenestration that represents the low, unintrusive rustic ideal. Next, they constructed three cabins, two latrines, and an administration building.<sup>5</sup> The office/administration building (1939) here is extremely modest, perhaps due to its later construction date. A simple rectangular mass with small flanking wings, it cost only \$280.

One source of architectural models was A Portfolio of Buildings for Organized Camps, a collection of recommended plans for a variety of park buildings that was issued by NPS to park officers in March 1937. It contains two Camp (2) Mawavi buildings (illustration 1)--a staff quarters and a unit lodge--although model structures from other recreation demonstration areas are also like those at the park. Wirth noted, however, they only reflect "the best examples of the plans in our files at the time. . . selections were made [and] most . . . were prepared in the early part of the program and contain certain weaknesses and inadequacies."<sup>6</sup>

Good features a group cabin from Camp (3) Orenda in his Park and Recreation Structures as exemplary. This saddlebag-style cabin (1938, photo 19) is recommended for camps occupied by small children who sleep in two four-room dormitories, separated by an entry room and a sleeping room for two leaders.<sup>7</sup> There are six of these cabins in Unit C and three in Units B and C; Unit A is composed of five-person cabins. The cabin form represented by A-1 (1937, photo 20) is an almost 22-foot square with dual-pitch roof and front porch--typical of the four- or five-person cabins in the park.

Site plans and structures were the source of a few debates. In the case of a central washhouse added to the plan for the girls' camps: it was not built on the correct site and in turn forced the construction of staffs' quarters at an inconvenient distance and necessitated two additional latrine buildings.

In the Chopawamsic Camps, the frequent changes made, and the fact buildings here received emergency field approval from various sources, brought about a number of inconsistencies in planning, of which the one under discussion is particularly serious. In later camps in

<sup>5</sup> W.R. Hall, "Accomplishments of CCC Camp SP-25. . ." (April 9, 1938), p. 4.

<sup>6</sup> Conrad L. Wirth, (cover letter to Emergency Activities Officers) Portfolio of Buildings for Organized Camps (Washington, D.C., NPS, 1937).

<sup>7</sup> Good, vol. 3, p. 185.

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which planning is in advance of construction, we are striving to hold rigidly to approved and recommended locations of buildings.<sup>8</sup>

Similarly, after two incidents of open play shelters being substituted for unit lodges at family camps, the third instance--at Chopawamsic--caused Field Coordinator Julian Salomon to declare that: "... the shelters are undesirable (sic) and practically useless. I am wondering if, despite this opinion, we are going to continue building them."<sup>9</sup> Another comparatively minor error was the construction of a barbeque fireplace with its 'spit hooks' bent the wrong way.<sup>10</sup>

One Camp (3) Orenda structure that might be likened to the disputed open play shelter is the craft shelter (1938, photo 21), for it's the only one of its type in the park. The 400-square-foot building, which cost \$499, has a dirt floor with concrete piers supporting wood posts. Work tables are built-in, with the only enclosed space supplied by a shed-roofed storage closet off the rear. Not surprisingly, this building is in poorer condition than most, being more vulnerable to the natural elements and animal destruction than sealed structures.

The nursery/craft lodge (1938, photo 22) is a considerably more substantial structure intended to double as a space for mothers and their young children, as needed. The L-plan features a wrapped, screened-in porch for sleeping, as well as a brick chimney and fireplace. Built at a cost of \$4,169, it represents a relatively complex design that combines a hip-on-gable roof, the enclosed porch, continuous double-hung sash and a pair of cross-gable dormers. The vertical waney board siding and array of roof and elevation profiles combine for a nicely integrated rustic scheme.

Readily available, indigenous materials were requisite, particularly at a demonstration center where "development is practical and economically considered." At Chopawamsic, "building materials of good quality--sand, gravel, stone and lumber--are native and at hand without extra purchase cost."<sup>11</sup> Timber is the predominant

<sup>8</sup> Letter from Herbert Evison to Mr. (Matt) Huppuch (August 25, 1936).

<sup>9</sup> Memorandum from Julian H. Salomon to Mr. Gerner (May 15, 1937).

<sup>10</sup> "Chopawamsic, VA-6; Barbeque Fireplace," Memorandum from Acting Assistant Director, NPS, to Regional Officer, Region 1 (May 28, 1937).

<sup>11</sup> Ickes et al, p.19.

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structural--and modestly decorative--material used.<sup>12</sup> Wood was cut in the area and hewn into "waney board," which maintained the bark layer and the natural profile of the tree trunk, as well as desirable knots and irregularities. The specifications for siding call for "random widths popular (sic), pine or oak boards 1" thick. Exposed edge shall be wavy edged and interior edge shall be squared. Exposed surface shall not vary in width more than 2 inches. All boards shall be sufficiently lapped to insure tight joint after shrinkage."<sup>13</sup> Two sawmills in the park, one near the present Carter's Day Camp, carried out this process.<sup>14</sup> The lumber was treated with creosote, a popular rustic-style finish that served as a stain and a preservative. (Note: the creosote used at the time is considered today to be toxic; however, that toxicity is believed to dissipate over time, and pose no threat to current occupants.)

Cedar shingles of 24 or 26 inches, hung with 9 or 10 inches exposure to weather, respectively, were recommended. These were sawed or hewn using a froe (a log-splitting tool) and shaking board, a technique many CCC men recalled from Civil War days.<sup>15</sup> These were all replaced with asphalt by Army occupants between 1942-43 when the park structures were 'winterized.'

A minimum amount of stone was available for use in Chopawamsic's structures, although it was also a crucial ingredient for the dam construction. Most of the stone used in foundations, chimneys, roadbeds and decoratively, as in the craft shop in Camp (1) Goodwill, was quarried at the Cabin Branch Mine located on the eastern border of the park<sup>16</sup>; rendered using a 12-ton rock crusher with screen and belt feeders, and thereafter distributed to the camp sites. Additional stone is featured in low retaining walls along some portions of the main road, although since Chopawamsic was an

<sup>12</sup> The only significant use of stone is in Cabin Camp 1; the stable/tackroom structure is also unique to the park, with its more dramatic log and chink construction.

<sup>13</sup> Virginia SP-22, Job No. 113-E, Staff and Help Latrine Specifications (undated).

<sup>14</sup> Ickes et al, p.18.

<sup>15</sup> "Lore of Early Competitor of New York Revived By Dumfries Resettlement Project Near Capital," Washington Star (March 15, 1936).

<sup>16</sup> Ickes et al, p. 18; At Cabin Branch--operated from 1889 until 1919--iron pyrite was first extracted, followed by sulphur. The area was also the source of many millions of board feet of lumber and many thousands of ties for railroad construction, exhausted by the 1920s. Charles Porter, "Preliminary Historical Report" (December 28, 1935), p. 2.

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architecturally modest undertaking, there was only to be "simple, dignified landscape treatment [in] spots which need it."<sup>17</sup>

Most buildings--cabins, dining halls, lodges, infirmaries--are raised off the ground on 8- by 8-inch concrete piers that originally provided a minimum 18-inch clearance from floor joists to ground. This was more the concern of project manager W.R. Hall, than some people within the Resettlement Administration:

To provide a squat appearance [,] which is desirable in forest structures. . . buildings are being set so far into the ground (sic) that the floor beams have only a clearance of 2 to 6 inches. The result is poor circulation, with attendant dampness. Such construction, furthermore, encourages animals to nest underneath. Although this is not a very serious fault, the construction does not apparently meet with the approval of the project manager.<sup>18</sup>

The piers, roof and chimney joints were protected with lead or metal flashing. Other building types such as latrines and washhouses, by necessity feature poured, solid concrete foundations. The framing, form and materials were recognizably indigenous, for Good cites wide boards, squared battens and rough-sawn gable siding as "typical of a number of park cabin groups in the Old Dominion."<sup>19</sup>

The largest of all camp buildings is the dining hall/kitchen, and Camp (3)'s (1939, photo 23) is one of the most complex of all. The main block features a decorative, gable-end brick chimney and an extended shed roof over the entry. The kitchen and service features are contained in the smaller, intersecting wing. Numerous cross-gable extensions, dormers and continuous fenestration break up the 50,000-square-foot structure--which cost more than \$10,000--and render it a more picturesque and irregular design.

The unit lodges in Camp (3) Orenda are alike, except for the one in Unit A, which features an outdoor kitchen pavilion. Unit C lodge (1938, photo 24), measuring about 20 feet by 40 feet, features a standard-pitch gable roof and regular 6/6 sash--none of the

<sup>17</sup> Ickes et al, p. 19; Although construction at Chopawamsic occurred from the mid-30s, the structures' outstanding simplicity undoubtedly reflect the park's role as a recreation demonstration project, in addition to the general dilution of rustic styling.

<sup>18</sup> "Park Project Building," Interoffice communication--Resettlement Administration, from R.B.H. Begg to L.C. Gray (July 14, 1936).

<sup>19</sup> Good, vol. 3, p. 35.

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subtle material or compositional elements of the lodges at Camp (2), for example. Ironically, these were constructed two years later for \$525, almost double the cost of the latter.

Roads in the park were restricted, except for those necessary to accommodate service vehicles and afford fire protection. A network of fire breaks were carved out of the forest; some of the current fire trail roads were in use as trails during CCC occupation, and vice versa.

One of the intended recreational elements of the park was horseback riding. The stable/tackroom (c.1938, photo 25), located adjacent to the current maintenance area, is stylistically unique to the park. Existing plans do not correspond with the structure in place, nor is the date of construction firm. The stable, tackroom and trailer shed are connected as one elongated building, with the entrance to the stalls covered by an overhanging second story. The structure is a distinctive vertical round-log and chink, with dramatic bracing of additional log elements. While the construction method is common to other areas and parks, it is atypical of that found in PWFP.

Dams were constructed to enhance the landscape as well as harness the water. The resulting lakes featured dock areas to safely accommodate swimmers. Dam 3 (1936), intercepting the south fork of the Quantico Creek east of Unit B, is a modest earthfill type, 20 feet high and 25 feet wide. It creates a medium-sized pond of about 0.6 acres, 3-12 feet deep. At the southwest end is a wood and concrete-lined "wading pool" measuring 58 by 40 feet.<sup>20</sup>

Accessing creek waters, individual sanitary, waste and water-supply systems serve each camp. A complete system for sanitation, drinking facilities and recreation was created using the Quantico Creek. Each camp was served by a wood-stave water tower (photo 5) on a 30-foot supporting steel frame; the cypress drum could hold 5,000 gallons of water. These were erected at a cost of \$918 each.

In addition to substantial buildings and structures, a variety of extant occasional features include camp-entrance gates, council or campfire rings, water fountains or

<sup>20</sup> Arthur Beard Engineers Inc., "Informal Dam Inspection Report, National Dam Safety Program: Prince William Forest Park, Dam at Camp 3" (December 1982). Located Maintenance office. x See continuation sheet

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'bubblers', and barbeque fireplaces; the majority of these have lost their rustic styling due to replacement or alteration.

These entrance gates are composed of a well-massed cluster of hewn round logs set vertically into the ground at different heights for a pleasantly irregular effect, held together by metal bands; another pivoted and braced slender log swings horizontally to allow access to the camp road. "It serves adequately as a barrier and does not obscure, complicate, or presume to compete with the landscape beyond."<sup>21</sup>

The original council rings were constructed of halved logs of a 12-18 inches in diameter, set in a semicircular arrangement on a gentle slope; the present rings have been constructed with planed timber, and are thus non-contributing. One of the only remaining picnic fireplaces in the park was constructed in Unit C (photo 24) in 1939-40, based on a design in Park and Recreation Structures (illustration 5). The splayed brick and stone firebox with a steel grate, "is typical of the picnic fireplaces favored in many of the Western National Parks." The salient features include the firebox form, paving in front of the hearth to prevent forest fires, and the mounding of the rocks--the ideal massing is three stones or boulders.<sup>22</sup>

The lone, extant CCC-built bridge (photo 6) on Park Central Road north of the camp and maintenance areas, crosses the south fork of Quantico Creek. It is a bowstring arch truss type, notably constructed of massive hewn log timbers, with a rebuilt wooden deck.

A few non-contributing buildings exist in the proposed historic district. Within Units B and C a modern latrine (photo 27) has been erected that's somewhat sympathetic to the rustic environs, with tongue-in-groove wood siding and a deep-eaved gable roof. The Carter's Day Camp area is historic, but the physical evidence has largely been lost. This was the site of one of the two sawmills used to produce siding for the recreation structures. The roof of the picnic pavilion is believed to have served as part of this facility, as it appears to date from the early 1930s; however, it has been resited atop a poured-concrete foundation. A modern comfort station is nearby. This facility may be closed in the near future. Two CCC buildings--the former blacksmith shop (33/U-4) and the oil shop--are non-contributing due to seriously deteriorated condition and major rebuilding, respectively.

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<sup>21</sup> Good, vol. 1, p. 10.

<sup>22</sup> Good, vol. 2, p. 30.

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All contributing buildings, structures, and sites in the district are related to a single theme--the culmination of a movement within the progressive era of the New Deal to build model resource-reclamation projects, and the accompanying rise of rustic architecture. Through a combination of quality craftsmanship and careful consideration of the relationship between architectural and landscape design, the district has maintained the spirit and character in which the area was originally conceived and built. The district includes 44 contributing buildings, four contributing structures, one contributing site and seven non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing site.

**INVENTORY (\* = Non-contributing)**

*Cabins are grouped according to the types found in the park. Dates, dimensions and dollar costs affixed to inventory descriptions are taken from the 1951-52 buildings survey located in PWWP archives. The buildings are listed by type number: the type number is consistent among camps and identifies function, ie. cabins (1-10), unit lodge (12), dining hall (60), infirmary (70); the first number is the consecutive property inventory number the NPS assigns for administrative purposes. (property #/type #)*

76-136-1  
WFO  
76-136-6  
Cabins A-1 (209), A-2 (210), A-5 (213), A-6 (214), A-7 (215), A-9 (217):  
5 campers; concrete pier foundation; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding;  
1 story; 5-bay; dual-pitch gable roof covered with asphalt; full porch with shed roof  
supported by four equally spaced square posts; side entry; suspended hinged shutters.  
22' by 21'-6"/482 sf. Built 1936.

76-136-7  
WFO  
76-136-15  
Cabins B-1(221), B-2(222), B-3(223);  
Cabins C-1(227), C-2(228), C-3(229), C-4(230), C-5(235), C-6(231):  
8-10 campers; concrete pier foundation; cross-gable plan; frame with  
vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; 3-bay; gable-front with shed porch; roof  
covered with asphalt. 49'-8" by 12'/7,065 sf. Built 1938. [Cited in Good, vol. 3, p. 185.]  
[Plans, 1936]

76-136-16  
WFO  
76-136-19  
Cabins A-3(211), A-4(212), A-8(216), A-9a(218): 5 campers; concrete pier  
foundation; gable-front plan; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story;  
11-bay; gable roof covered with asphalt. Built 1936.

76-136-20 - 21  
Latrines B-10-1 (225), C-10-1 (233)\*: poured concrete foundation; asphalt gable roof  
with wide eaves, notched horizontal frame construction. Built c. 1970.

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76-136-22 -23 -24

Latrines A-10 (219), B-10 (224), C-10 (232): concrete foundation; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; shed-on-gable roof covered with asphalt; continuous slatted shuttering along upper third of facades in lieu of fenestration; side entry. 21'-6" by 17' / 366 sf. Built 1936-37.

76-136-25 -26 -27

Lodges A-12 (220), B-12 (226), C-12 (234): concrete pier foundation; frame with vertical waney board siding; 1 story; 5-bay; gable roof covered with asphalt; exterior gable-end brick chimney; (A-12 also features porch wing with brick foundation, gable roof, square supports, built-in benches, and exterior kitchen grill. Cost \$336. 30'-10" by 20'-10". Built 1936-38. [Plans, 1937]

76-136-28 Office/Administration building (196/50): concrete pier foundation; rectangular with partial extended wings; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; 6-bay; center brick chimney. Cost \$280. c. 30' by 41' / 1,045 sf. Built 1937. [Plans, 1938]

76-136-29 Craft shelter (197/55): concrete pier foundation; dirt floor; post and beam construction; 1 story; gable roof with extended shed in rear; built-in work tables. Cost \$499. 27' by 14' / 401 sf. Built 1938. [Plans, 1938]

76-136-30 Dining hall (198/60): concrete pier foundation; L/T-plan; gable roof with porch gables and extended shed; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; decorative, exterior brick gable-end chimney; *interior*: truss rafters; hand-wrought iron light fixtures. Cost \$10,009. 93'-1" by 88' / 50,000 cubic feet. Built 1936.

76-136-31 Camp exchange/helps' quarters (199/61): concrete pier foundation; gable-front and wing plan; shed roof with square post supports; vertical/ horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; 7-bay. 28'-9" by 15'-3" / 420 sf. Built 1939.

76-136-32 Helps'/Staff quarters (200/65): concrete pier foundation; frame with vertical/ horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; T-plan; 5-bay; gable roof covered with asphalt; hinged wood shutters. Cost \$935. c. 32' by 26'. Built 1939.

76-136-33 Infirmary (201/70): concrete pier foundation; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; cross-gable plan; 5-bay; roof covered with asphalt; shed porch with corner post on one arm. 43'-10" by 29'-8". Built 1936.

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76-136-34  
Helps' Latrine (202/75): concrete foundation; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; T-plan; gable roof covered with asphalt; 4-bay with entry on wing; Cost \$895. 20' by 15'-6"/232 sf. Built 1937-38. [Plans, 1937]

76-136-35  
Storage /Nature building (203/77): concrete foundation; frame with horizontal weatherboard siding; 1 story; 3-bay; gable roof covered with asphalt; high-placed windows protected with iron bars. 24' by 15'. Built 1939.

-36  
Nursery/Craft lodge (204/78): concrete pier foundation; frame with vertical waney board siding; 1 story; L-plan with hip and hip-on-gable roof; brick chimney; full screened-in porch with shed roof on rear facade; continuous double-hung sash; *interior*: truss roof, modest brick fireplace. Cost \$4,169. 60' by 43'/2,096 sf. Built 1937.

-37  
Help's'/Staff quarters (205/85): concrete pier foundation; cross-gable plan; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; 4-bay; front shed-roofed entry. Cost \$1,310. 32' by 19'/487 sf. Built 1937-38.

-38  
Help's' quarters (206/85a): concrete pier foundation; frame with vertical waney board siding; 1 story; 3-bay; gable-front entry; screened-in shed porch with four equally spaced square supports. 13'-5" by 15'-10"/216 sf. Built 1939.

-39  
Storage (207/90): concrete pier foundation; rectangular plan with central double doors; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; gable roof with asphalt shingles. Cost \$550. 20'-8" by 12'-8"/263 sf. Built 1938.

-40  
Central washhouse (208/95): concrete foundation; frame with vertical/horizontal waney board siding; 1 story; T-plan; gable roof covered with asphalt; brick chimney at located in front/entry wing; full porch with square post supports; contemporary fixed-light window and metal doors. 50'-8" by 27'. Built 1936.

-41  
Entrance gates: vertical hewn-log; pivoted log cross bar; iron support bands. Prob. 1936.

-42  
Vehicular bridge, Park Central over S. Branch of Quantico Creek: wooden bowstring arch truss bridge; wood deck.

-43  
Picnic fireplace: uncut stone structure; splayed fire box and steel grate; stone hearth. Built 1939-40. [after Good, vol. 2, p. 30] [Plan, 1939]

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- 76-136-44 Council circle/campfire ring\*: originally 12" halved oak logs; creosote coated; now planed wood construction. Built 1938-39. [Plans, 1938]
- 76-136-45 Dam 3 and swimming area: medium-sized pond, c. 0.6 acres, east of the camp site; depth 3-12 feet; earthfill dam, H 20' by W 25'; concrete-lined wood "wading pool" at southwest end of pond, 58' by 12'. Built c. 1936.
- 46 Parade ground/flagpole: original size, c. 114' by 350'; now expanded on two sides.
- 47 Electric Shop/Toolhouse (32/U-3): concrete block foundation; frame structure with vertical board; 1 story; gable roof with asphalt; 3-bay; contemporary wood entrance deck. 42' by 19'-6"/925 sf. Built 1936.
- 48 Paint Shop/Bathhouse (34/U-8): concrete foundation; frame structure with horizontal weatherboard; gable roof with asphalt; 1 story; 4 bays. 38' by 20'/769 sf. Built 1936.
- 49 Garage (35/U-10): gable-front; 1-1/2 to 2 story; frame structure with horizontal siding; large double flanking service doors; *interior*: truss roof. Probably 1935-36.
- 50 Stable/Tackroom (36/U-81): vertical round-log and chink structure; 2 story with second story overhanging stall entries; gable roof with asphalt. c. 1938.
- 51 Stable storage (no number): vertical waney board construction, asphalt gable roof, 1 story. c. 18' by 12'.
- 52 Education Building/Storage (39/U-1): Brick pier foundation; elongated, 8-bay plan; 1 bay; frame structure with horizontal weatherboard; gable roof with asphalt; 8/8 sash. 120' by 21'. Built 1935.
- 53 Oil/Electric/Storage (28/)\*: 1 story; gable-front; double entry doors; front facade has been rebuilt. Built c. 1935.
- 54 Blacksmith Shop/Garage (33/U-4)\*: elongated plan with rear continuous shed; wood foundation; 1 story; vertical weatherboard; gable roof; asphalt sheet roofing; contains remnants of forge, tools, etc.; traces of aquamarine-colored paint on interior. Extremely poor condition. 108' by 24'/2,665 sf. Built 1936.

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76-136-55

Pump house (/334)\*: concrete block structure with stucco; gable roof with asphalt shingles. c. 8' by 10'. Built c. 1970-80.

76-136-56

Carter's Day Camp picnic shelter (CDC-2/47)\*: concrete foundation; 3 bay; square post supports and gable roof with asphalt alleged to be part of a sawmill that occupied the site from at least 1930 until the 1960s. Probably built 1930s and resited in 1960s.

76-136-57

Carter's Day Camp comfort station (CDC-1/46)\*: Contemporary frame; gable roof; rectangular plan with screens at entrance. Probably built 1950-70s.

**8: Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
Entertainment/Recreation  
Conservation

1933-42

1934

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

National Park Service  
Civilian Conservation Corps

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Camp (3) Orenda/SP-26 Historic District qualifies for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The grouping of 49 buildings, structures and sites is representative of three themes: the social-welfare efforts of the New Deal manifested in the CCC, the trend in outdoor recreation and mobility, and the National Park Service role in land reclamation--all movements of the 1930s. The rustic styling embodied in the public recreational architecture at Chopawamsic is distinctive to this period, which roughly coincides with the existence of the CCC, 1933-42. While not individually noteworthy, the buildings, structures and sites that compose this organized campground collectively represent a design harmony with the natural and man-made landscape, as well as an attention to indigenous materials and promotion of hand-crafted aesthetic.

Continuous occupation of the lands in the watershed of the Quantico and Chopawamsic Creeks from the 18th to the early 20th century depleted the natural resources of the area so thoroughly that by the 1920-30s, the soil, forest and handful of residents were all impoverished. The recreation demonstration area program instituted by FDR sought to identify just such lands in close proximity to urban centers, on which it could establish model reclamation projects.

Development of Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area was initiated in mid-1934 and was largely completed by 1940; it was the fourth-largest of 46 RDAs created nationwide. The landscape and structural designs are attributed to architects, engineers and draftmen employed by the National Park Service, built up to 1940. While those structures erected after 1938 are younger than the 50-year requirement, they are an integral part of a district setting designed or constructed in part before 1938. In addition, rustic architecture from 1933-42 has been previously justified in the National Register nominations for Douthat State Park in Virginia and several for sites in Missouri (see bibliography).

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The CCC succeeded in several areas of conservation, including forest, soil, water- and human, in the spirit of the program's social welfare role. These men inhabited tent camps initially, while erecting a formal camp; some fragments of SP-26 are extant in the maintenance area. These standardized structures were used to provide shelter, education, vocational training and other aspects of daily life for the enrollees, who earned \$1 a day.

The CCC and WPA laborers were charged with the development of recreational facilities for the public; in the case of RDAs such as Chopawamsic, for the underprivileged urban population of Greater Washington, D.C. Tent camps such as those for black and white children and families, formerly situated in Rock Creek Park and Blue Plains, leased the organized camp for the summer season, and bussed in the campers. Other local users included the YMCA, Salvation Army and the Family Services Association of Washington. The facilities offered hiking trails, swimming, campfire rings, lodges and crafts shops for group activities, a central dining hall/kitchen, office, latrines and washhouses for hygienic needs, an infirmary in case of illness, cabins for the campers and separate quarters for the staff, and storage facilities. These allowed poor, uneducated and often ill-bred children, as well as mothers and youngsters, the opportunity for physical exercise, arts and crafts, and dramatics, in the natural and healthful out-of-doors.

These buildings and structures were designed to be in harmony with the natural forest and man-made 'natural' features such as the dammed lake. The timber siding used for all buildings is rough-hewn with a "waney board" or natural tree profile. This is used in conjunction with hefty hewn logs, a modicum of fieldstone and wood shingles in single-story compositions boasting a variety of gables, eaves, sheds and porches. Building plans are somewhat standardized cross, T, H and rectangular plans, differing in dimension and siting from one another, but always taking advantage of picturesque combinations of elements that include hinged shutters, screened or louvered windows. Some distinctive hardware is found in the door springs, gutter supports and hand-wrought lodge light fixtures.

The settings of unit camps, of which there are three to five per organized camp, is organized with the core of service and administration buildings--dining hall, office, central washhouse, infirmary and craft shop--in a centralized site, around which radiate the individual unit camps composed of a lodge, several cabins and a latrine. The arrangement allowed for a natural setting, often with a view off a ridge line, as well as

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relative privacy. These were solutions to the problem of hosting large numbers of children safely, as codified by National Park Service publications.

As these facilities were completed, the CCC companies at Chopawamsic were dispatched to other projects; in 1942, when the public recreational facilities were complete and the U.S. Army inhabited Chopawamsic as a training base, the CCC program was disbanded.

The proposed historic district has statewide and local significance as a recreation demonstration area--a model organized campground--established by the federal government to reclaim depleted natural resources as well as provide public recreation facilities. The remaining CCC structures are representative of one of FDR's most successful human conservation efforts, while the rustic architecture the men constructed is representative of the rising popularity of parks, organized camping and motoring to and from natural settings that was facilitated by automobiles and the boom in park and parkway construction.

**9: Major Bibliographical References**

See Major Bibliographical References section of the Multiple Property Nomination for ECW Architecture at Prince William Forest Park, 1933-42.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 179

UTM References

A 

1	8	2	94	1	60	42	7	1	46	0
Zone		Easting				Northing				

C 

1	8	2	94	5	80	42	7	02	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing				

B 

1	8	2	9	46	80	42	70	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing				

D 

1	8	2	9	43	60	42	70	0	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated district is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the UTM reference points A through N.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the cabin camp buildings, structures and forest, as well as man-made landscape architectural features including trails, lake and dam, that have historically been part of Camp (3) Orenda and that maintain historic integrity. The

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sara Amy Leach - Historian

organization Prince William Forest Park date 26 March, 1988

street & number 1820 N. Quinn St., #405 telephone 841-9726

city or town Arlington state VA zip code 22209

CAMP (1) GOODWILL  
HISTORIC DISTRICT >

CAMP (4) PLEASANT  
HISTORIC DISTRICT >

CAMP (3) ORENDA /  
SP-26 HISTORIC  
DISTRICT >

QUANTILE QUAD

1124,000

